

ABSTRACT

A gateway apparatus includes facsimile and Internet communications mechanisms, a memory, and a communications controller. The facsimile communications mechanism receives 5 facsimile communications protocols and facsimile information from a calling facsimile apparatus through the telephone network. The Internet communications mechanism transmits the facsimile information in a packet format to a called facsimile apparatus via a different gateway apparatus through 10 the Internet and the telephone network. The memory stores data representing a calling facsimile number of the calling facsimile apparatus in association with a called facsimile number of the called facsimile apparatus. The communications controller determines before establishing a 15 line connection whether the facsimile number of the calling facsimile apparatus is registered. The communications controller causes the different gateway apparatus to initiate a call to the called facsimile apparatus using the called facsimile number when the facsimile number of the calling 20 facsimile apparatus is determined as registered. The communications controller establishes a line connection upon a receipt of an acknowledgement indicating the line is connectable.